“Grace and Peace Multiplied”

I. The blessings (substance) of __________ faith.

A. __________. For by the grace of God you have been __________ (cf. Eph 2:8).
   1. The word “grace” is defined as: the absolutely __________ expression of the loving kindness of God toward sinful mankind finding its only motive in the bounty and benevolence of God, the Giver. It is __________ and unmerited __________. Therefore, it is sovereign grace as it is bestowed by the Sovereign as He wills.

B. __________.
   1. Peace defined: The opposite of war and dissension. Metaphorically it is the peace of mind, tranquility, __________, calm and rest that arises from a sense of the divine favor that one has __________.
   2. Peace with God is the consequence of receiving the salvific faith that comes to us by the grace of God! While we were enemies with God, we were __________ to Him through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ, and having been reconciled, we know then that we are saved by His life being the recipients of eternal life (cf. Ro. 5:10); and knowing this to be true brings us great __________.

II. The __________ of the blessings of grace and peace.

A. Grace and peace be __________ to you.
   1. Peter is __________ the __________ to face the more treacherous problem of false teachers and their waves and winds of false doctrine as they come in trickery, craftiness and deceitful scheming!
   2. How do we withstand such deception? By __________ in the grace and peace of God, beloved! By being __________ in the Lord! (Cf. 1 Cor 14:20 & Heb 5:12-14)
      a. It is our Lord’s will that these blessings of grace and peace be multiplied to us (growing and __________) that we might hear, do and __________ like a rock in the face of the onslaught of false and deceptive teachings!
   3. Beloved, God’s grace is inexhaustible and His peace never empty, and as __________ in Him, so will we experience the fullness of His grace and peace and we will __________ for we will be experiencing grace upon grace and going from glory to glory. “And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall __________ your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:7).
III. The ______________ of the blessings of grace and peace!

A. The blessings of God’s grace and peace are multiplied to us in (through) the ______________ of God and of Jesus our Lord.

1. James 1:18 tells us that it was “In the exercise of His will [that] He brought us forth by the __________ __________, ...” We were brought forth by the Word of Truth; that is, through a ______________ of God and of Jesus our Lord!

B. We first received the grace and peace of God __________ gaining a __________ our Lord. ... it is a coming to __________ our Lord ______________ that brought us to realize His personal blessings.

C. If it is in the ______________ of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord that we first experienced His saving grace and the resultant peace, where do you suppose, my family, that His grace and peace will be multiplied to us? In a __________ of Him!

D. Beloved, this is what this letter is about - our __________ in the knowledge of God the Father and of Christ the Savior that we might be increasingly in the grace and peace of God! As Peter warns of the false teachers in the last verses of this letter he writes, 3:17-18, “You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your __________ lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, 18 but __________ in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ...”

E. Those who would teach falsely in the church will in fact follow cleverly devised tales (1:16); __________ the __________ who bought them while secretly introducing destructive heresies (2:1); practice immorality and malign the truth (2:2); out of __________ exploit with false words (2:3); despise authority (2:10); revel in deception, have eyes full of adultery, never cease from sin, __________ unstable __________, have hearts of greed, and forsake the right way (2:13-15); speak arrogantly (2:18); mock the return of Christ (3:3-4); ignore the judgement of God (3:5-7); and __________ the Scriptures (3:16). Now church, how do we combat that onslaught of deception? We must increasingly __________ the true and only __________, and the true and only Savior!

Conclusion: Dear family, though God has blessed us beyond measure, we cannot sit back and take our ease, but rather we must diligently work to grow in the ______________ of our Lord that we might grow in our personal relationship with Him and __________ realize His blessings. In so doing, as we hear and act appropriately, His graces will be multiplied to us and we will __________ in Him like a rock.

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